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EXHIBIT 3

DATE 03/08/13

HB 546

February 27, 2013

The Honorable Keith Regier, Chair
Federal Relations, Energy and Telecommunications Committee
Montana House of Representatives
P.O. Box 200400
Helena, MT 59620-0400

Dear Representative Regier:

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) is a not-for-profit membership organization that represents the general aviation interests of nearly 400,000 members nationwide, including over 2,400 in Montana. On behalf of AOPA and our members, we write to express the general aviation community's strong support for House Bill 546, which would require the marking and lighting of small towers in unincorporated rural areas of the state.

At present it is estimated that over 100 such towers (which fall outside of the Federal Aviation Administration's requirements for obstruction marking and lighting) are currently erected throughout the state. These small, unmarked and difficult to see towers can pose a significant hazard to critical and lawful low-level aviation activities, including aerial application, emergency medical helicopter operations and aerial firefighting. Requiring the marking, lighting and reporting of these small towers would significantly improve the safety of rural aircraft operations in Montana at a minimal additional cost to tower owners.

On behalf of AOPA and our members, we appreciate your support of House Bill 546, and look forward to its passage. If you have any questions, or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (301) 695-2094.

Sincerely,

David Ulane, A.A.E.
Northwest Mountain Regional Manager

CC: Debbie Alke, Director- Montana Division of Aeronautics
Jon Hudson, President- Montana Pilots Association
John McKenna, President- The Recreational Aviation Foundation